

From Your Pastor

How Can I Help? ~ St. Columbkille Volunteer Fair ~ May 30-31, 2009

“The ecclesial community, while always having a universal dimension, finds its most immediate and visible expression in the parish. It is there that the Church is seen locally. In a certain sense it is the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.” (Christifideles Laici, 26)

“As far as possible the lay faithful ought to collaborate in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by their own ecclesial family.” (Christifideles Laici, 27)

These quotes come from an Apostolic Exhortation written by Pope John Paul II entitled “The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People.” The late Holy Father wrote this exhortation following a major meeting or “synod” of Bishops that took place in Rome in October 1987. The purpose of the synod, which followed three very full years of preparation, was to reflect upon and to discuss anew the vocation and the mission of the laity in the life of the Church.

Two important truths about Catholic parishes are illuminated in these brief passages. First, the parish is the Church for most Catholics. Though the Church has more than a billion members worldwide and is rooted in an apostolic preaching that has borne the test of time for two thousand years, almost every active Catholic judges the value of the Church by the experience of his or her parish. If that experience is positive and uplifting, the Church is a welcome home and an anchor. If it is not, the Church will have little to do with a person’s life or value system; and, sadly, that person very often will leave the active practice of the faith.

Second, a parish is as vital as its parishioners are active. Like any home, a parish is more than a house. The parish is a bundle or community of activity – with the Eucharist at its center – that leads every member more fully to Christ. To the extent that the able members of the parish contribute, to that extent

is the parish alive in Christ. This is why Pope John Paul urges the lay faithful towards a full and active participation in “their own ecclesial family” or parish.

We are blessed in Brighton to have a very long and distinguished history of active involvement by the laity in our parishes. One cannot read the accounts of the parishes of St. Columbkille (1871), Our Lady of the Presentation (1909-2004) or St. Gabriel (1934-2006) without being taken by the talent, leadership and generosity that has been manifested by the lay faithful over the years. I have on my desk, for example, a clip from the July 27, 1893 edition of the *Boston Daily Globe* recounting a field day for Brighton Catholics at Spy Pond Grove in Arlington that involved some 3,500 people!

In an effort to strengthen the participation of our parishioners in the activities of the parish, the Parish Pastoral Council is sponsoring a Volunteer Fair that will take place at all of the Masses on the weekend of May 30-31. The purpose of this Volunteer Fair is to bring to your attention the wide variety of activities that go on at St. Columbkille and to invite you, if you are able, to consider seriously making a commitment to one or more of our parish activities. This weekend, different members of the parish community who are already active in the parish will speak a brief word of encouragement following Communion at each of the Masses. They will also provide you with a small brochure which lists and describes the many activities available for your consideration. I know you will be impressed with the number of activities we have.

Though I am very much aware that these are difficult and busy times for so many of you, I encourage you to think carefully about engaging in one of the activities of our parish. As happens so often, your gift of yourself to another will frequently become one of the best gifts you give to yourself. It’s just one of the many, many ways God rewards a cheerful giver.

God bless each of you.



Mrs. Fay

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prayers Are Requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Cesidio Lombardi, Betty Lenihan, Catherine Drake and deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

St. Columbkille Volunteer Fair – As noted in the Pastor’s column, do not forget to pick up the brochure on the parish activities that need your help. They are at the doors of the church. We are grateful for the consideration you will give to serving in the parish.

2009 Catholic Appeal - *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church.* This past week we reached \$34,500 and are within \$1,000 of our goal of \$35,500. More than ever, the saying “Every gift matters” means everything. If you have not yet given to the **2009 Catholic Appeal**, you can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church. You can mail your gift in or put it in the collection basket. For more information please call 617-779-3700 or visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com. A heartfelt “Thank You” to all supporters of the 2009 Catholic Appeal.

A Make-up Review Training for all Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who were unable to attend the last training session will be on Saturday, May 30 in the upper church. Lectors will meet at 10:00 am and Extraordinary Ministers at 11:00. Please mark your calendars.

The Monday Night Prayer Group will meet at 7:15 pm in the lower church.

The Legion of Mary is now meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the rectory. New members are welcome.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. Next meeting Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00pm.

The Next Theology on Tap will be at the Greenbriar on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00pm.

The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 21 is a Holyday of Obligation. The Mass schedule is as follows: Wednesday Vigil Mass 7:00 pm (English) and on Thursday Masses are 7:00 & 9:00 am; 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm (Español)

The Second Collection this week is the Catholic Communications Collection.

Did You Know? Take the Child Safety Quiz Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safer in today’s fast-paced world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC’s Web site offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. The site also features an interactive quiz on child safety designed for both adults and children. To take the quiz, visit the NCMEC Web site and click on “Child Safety”: www.missingkids.com.

Brighton-Allston Historical Society Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 pm at the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church. Sam Cornish, Boston Poet Laureate, will be the guest speaker. Bring a poem to read. Refreshments will be served.

Bulletin on-line: You may now read the bulletin on our own website www.brightoncatholic.org or at the Liturgical Publication website www.SeekAndFind.com.

The Family Masses for the summer are at 9:30 am Sundays, May 31, June 14 & 21, July 12 & 26 and August 16 & 30. Please come and worship as a family.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (May 9 - May 10): \$6,211

St. Vincent de Paul (May 9 – May 10): \$168.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

MAY 17, 2009

**From an Easter Letter by
St. Athanasius (d. 373)**

Christ Is the Way to the Light, the Truth and the Life

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: "See, I am with you all the days of this age." He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: "Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover." It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: "You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me." True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practice contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favor through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: "I am the way." As blessed John tells us: it is Christ "who takes away the sin of the world." It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: "Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls."

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed,

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even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Savior as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: "See, we have left all things and followed you." We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

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Prayer for Marriage

Heavenly Father,
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage
that reflects the love of Christ for the Church,
where the self-giving love of husband and wife
unites them more perfectly
and cooperates in your plan
for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women
in their vocation of marriage,
especially in difficult times
when they join their sufferings to the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society
as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love
and on your providential care for us. Amen.

Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap
Archbishop of Boston
May 15, 2007

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UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Saturday, May 23 10:00 am First Penance -Spanish

Sunday, May 24 12:45 pm First Communion –Spanish

Thursday, May 28 7:00 pm Healing Mass

Saturday, May 30 Review for Lectors (10:00 am) &
Extraordinary Ministers (11:00 am) in upper church.

Weekend of May 30/31 Volunteer Fair

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Masses for the Week

Sunday, May 17 – 6th Sunday of Easter

(Sat.) 4:00 pm The DeMarco Family, Mem.
7:30 am Mary Walsh, 2nd Ann.
9:30 am Timothy O'Leary, 15th Ann.
11:15 am Harry Kelly, Mem.
12:45 pm Jesus Cadena Brabo, 31st Ann.
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

Mon. 7:00 am John Gasper, 37th Ann.

Tue. 7:00 am Kathleen Coary, Mem.

Wed. 7:00 am Patrick Tully, 40th Ann.

Thu. 7:00 am Ascension of the Lord

Fri. 7:00 am Martin Tully, 59th Ann.

Sat. 7:00 am Johanna Cecilia Murphy, Mem.

Sunday, May 24 – 7th Sunday of Easter

(Sat.) 4:00 pm Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
9:30 am Antonio & Concetta Grasso, Mem.
11:15 am Barbara Montgomery, 19th Ann.
12:45 pm First Communion
5:00 pm Donato & Cecidia Mazzola, Mem.

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WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Saint Columbkille**

CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

RUN NUMBER: **15**

FILENAME: **03-0479.25b09**

PHONE NUMBER: **617-782-5774**

FAX NUMBER: **617-782-7283**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Patricia**

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Comments:
